

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media causing a computer processor to operate a template production system, comprising:

a template production function that produces a layout template combining a plurality of layout samples, each of the plurality of layout samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame,

the layout template having a layout position for the at least one layout element, and having a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that is based on a statistical probability and that corresponds to a position of the at least one layout element in the layout samples combined to produce the layout template.

2. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media according to claim 1, each of the plurality of layout samples having a significance weighing factor, the layout likelihood being a weighed layout likelihood corresponding to the significance weighing factors for the layout samples combined to produce the layout template.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media having a template production program that causes a computer processor to:

produce a layout template combining a plurality of layout samples stored on the media, each of the plurality of layout samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame, the layout template having a layout position for the at least one layout element, and having a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that is based on a statistical probability and that corresponds to a position of the at least one layout element in the layout samples combined to produce the layout template.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a template, comprising:

selecting one of a plurality of layout samples, each of the plurality of layout samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame;

determining the structure of each selected layout sample for each layout element; and

producing a layout template by combining the selected layout samples and having a layout position for the at least one layout element, and having a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that is based on a statistical probability and that corresponds to a position of the at least one layout element in the selected layout samples.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media causing a computer processor to operate a layout system, comprising:

a template production function that determines a structure of a plurality of layout samples, each of the plurality of layout samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame, and that produces a layout template by combining selected layout samples and having a layout position for the at least one layout element, and having a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that is based on a statistical probability and that corresponds to a position of the at least one layout element in the layout samples combined to produce the layout template; and

a layout function that generates a new layout having at least one new layout element in a template layout frame in accordance with the layout template produced by the template production function.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

the layout function generates the new layout by laying the at least one new layout element in the template layout frame, and by laying the at least one new layout element in accordance with the layout likelihood.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media according to claim 6, wherein

when the layout likelihood is equal for two element-laying areas of a layout element, the layout function generates the new layout by laying the at least one new layout element in accordance with a priority assigned to each of the two element-laying areas.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

the layout function generates the at least one new layout element by performing a process including dividing the layout template into a plurality of cells; calculating, for each cell, ~~the~~ mean values of vertical and horizontal lengths of each layout element that contains the cell and the layout likelihood of each layout element; calculating ~~the~~ a sum of the layout likelihood of all cells included in an element-laying area placed so as to extend, from a cell taken as an extension start point, in a vertical direction by a length equal to the calculated mean vertical length and in a horizontal direction by a length equal to the calculated mean horizontal length, for each possible location of the extension start point; and selecting an extension start point that results in a greatest sum of the layout likelihood and laying a corresponding new layout element in the element-laying area extending from the selected extension start point.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable media according to claim 8, wherein

the layout function employs ~~the~~ an area calculated in units squared or ~~the~~ an aspect ratio of each layout element instead of or in addition to the mean values, assigned to each cell, of vertical and horizontal lengths of each layout element.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

the at least one layout element is classified into image information with a main part that is an image and into text information with a main part that is text;

when the template production function sets the layout position and the layout likelihood of a layout element having text information, the template production function also sets information indicating a font type and a font size of the text information; and

when the layout function lays the layout element having text information in a particular element-laying area, the layout function determines a font type and a font size of the layout element in accordance with information indicating a font type and a font size assigned to the particular element-laying area.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

the layout element of each of the plurality of layout samples is assigned a significance weighing factor, the layout likelihood being a weighed layout likelihood corresponding to the significance weighing factors for the layout elements combined to produce the layout template.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

a significance weighing factor is assigned to each layout sample as a whole, the layout likelihood being a weighed layout likelihood corresponding to the significance weighing factors for the layout samples combined to produce the layout template.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

for an element-laying area that corresponds to at least two layout elements that overlap each other, the template production function calculates the sums of the layout

likelihood of the at least two layout elements and provides, in the layout template, the calculated sums of the layout likelihood corresponding to the element-laying area.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media having a layout program that causes a computer processor to:

determine the structure of a plurality of layout samples stored on the media, the plurality of layout samples each including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame, and produce a layout template by combining selected layout samples in which a layout position of each layout element in the layout frame is identified as corresponding to a layout likelihood that is based on a statistical probability; and

lay at least one new layout element in a new layout frame in accordance with the layout template.

15. (Currently Amended) A layout method, comprising:

determining the structure of a plurality of layout samples, each of the plurality of layout samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame, for each layout element;

producing a layout template by combining selected layout samples in which a layout position of each layout element in the layout frame is identified as corresponding to a layout likelihood that is based on a statistical probability; and

laying at least one new layout element in a new layout frame in accordance with the produced layout template.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media causing a computer processor using a data structure of a layout template to generate a layout in accordance with the layout template,

the layout template is produced by combining a plurality of layout samples each including at least one layout element laid in a predetermined layout frame, such that, for

each layout element, an element-laying area of the layout element in the layout frame is identified in connection with a layout likelihood of the layout element in the plurality of layout samples that is based on a statistical probability.